

SPRAYING IN SPRING

Take Pains to Destroy "Flies" of the Pear Psylla.

Insects Are Sluggish in Their Movements in Early Months of Year, Making Them Quite Vulnerable to Treatment.

(By H. HODGKINS, New York.)
Special pains should be taken to destroy the eggs as well as the winter "flies" of the pear psylla, as effective work greatly reduces the number of eggs deposited on the trees.

In early spring while the insects are able to crawl they are very sluggish in their movements. This habit makes them very vulnerable to treatment and the grower should take full advantage of it by so spraying that none of the insects be allowed to escape. It is to wet thoroughly all portions of the trees and especial care should be taken to force the liquid under the loose bark and into all the cracks and crevices in the bark. One tree should be thoroughly sprayed before proceeding to another, for in balmy weather the flies may dodge quickly to the opposite side of the tree. In planning this work be sure to select days when there is no danger of the spraying mixture freezing on the trees.

The eggs about to hatch and the young nymphs succumb easily to an application of lime-sulphur mixture. In this lies a very important hint to



Illustration at Left Shows the Best Stage for Spraying to Destroy Psylla Eggs—At Right, Too Early for Effective Control.

the fruit grower. The eggs of the psylla are laid principally during April and commence to hatch early in May or when the blossom cluster-buds are beginning to separate at the tips. Most growers spray much earlier than this for the San Jose scale, but by postponing the treatment of pear orchards until the blossom clusters are well advanced one may deal an effective blow against the psylla and with the same treatment successfully combat the scale. The spray should be used in liberal quantities and pains should be exercised to wet all portions of the tree, especially the fruit spurs and the under sides of the young wood, where most of the eggs are laid.

GIVE HOGS VARIETY OF FOOD

Essential to Satisfaction of Animal and Stimulates Digestive Organs to Activity.

There are some very important considerations in feeding swine which should not be lost sight of. The hog by nature is an omnivorous animal and readily eats a great variety of food.

Though domesticated for many years, he has not lost his natural instincts and loves to roam the fields and woods in search of various roots and plants, and is not averse to eating meat of various kinds whenever opportunity affords.

This love of a great variety of food is so deeply rooted in the hog as to have made a permanent impression upon the character of his teeth which are adapted not only to the grinding of grain, but also to the tearing asunder of flesh. This of itself should be sufficient to convince the feeder of the advisability of variety in the ration of the hog, but the general cultivation of corn, and its cheapness in years gone by, have led many farmers to lose sight of this essential matter.

Moreover, a variety of food, while essential to the satisfaction of the animal consuming it, stimulates the digestive organs to greater activity, which is a most desirable end to attain and this of itself would amply reward the feeder for taking greater pains and effort to provide the hog with a greater variety of food suited to its nutrition.

GOOD COMMON HORSE SENSE

Never Water Animal Immediately After Being Fed Grain—Don't Change Rations Abruptly.

A horse should not be watered immediately after being fed grain. Idle horses should not be fed too much grain.

Have the horse's teeth examined once a year.

Do not continually dose your horse; keep him well by proper care. Horses cannot be kept in a thriving condition if they are compelled to get all their living from the straw stack.

Do not change the grain ration abruptly.

Feeds Responsible for Loss.
A hog is a hog, and badly balanced rations and foods that are indigestible, are responsible for much loss. Many young pigs are severely injured by using them for the purpose of wasting food.

ONIONS RAISED FROM SEED

Industry Is Profitable if Proper Methods Are Used—Difficult to Keep Clean of Weeds.

Seed onions are of better flavor and keep longer and are more profitable to grow than sets, though some fail to grow them in the home garden because they are more difficult to keep clean of weeds.

The best way to raise onions from seed is by sowing the seed in a bed or cold frame early in the season and transplanting later to the row where they are to grow.

A small section of the hotbed will grow 1,000 plants until they are the size of quills, or they can be crowded. By that time the ground will be warm and all seed will have germinated so that the plants may be set in clean ground that has been worked over to kill all the young weeds.

If one lacks for room in the hotbed the seed may be sown in a sheltered place, an old brush heap, ash bed or some place where the soil is good.

If there is room to sow the seeds in drills six inches apart they may be worked some to keep them growing before they are transplanted.

When you are ready to transplant them, wet the ground and pull the plants and then cut off about half the top and slightly tip the roots.

Set the plants from two to three inches apart in the row and in rows of 15 inches apart. If very dry use water when transplanting and every one will live.

If the soil has been well manured with stable manure or poultry droppings and worked over several times before the onions are transplanted to the rows there will be but few weeds to contend with and the plants will not be checked in growth.

Onions should be pulled and placed to dry in the shade when the tops begin to turn yellow and drop over, which is usually in August.

ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF SOW

Besides Belonging to Prolific Family Animal Should Have Well-Developed Nipples.

(By J. G. FULLER.)

Although the sow need not be pure bred, the sow as well as the boar, should have marked characteristics of the chosen breed. By carefully selecting young sows from the most typical and largest litters and properly developing them, a splendid herd of females can be developed in a few years' time. To avoid any possibility of mistake, the choicest sow pigs from the best sows should be marked while they are still nursing their dams. They should not be penned or yarded with those which are being fattened for market, but, if possible, should be given freedom and exercise in the open, where a growing ration of green feeds, etc.,



A cement hog wallow should be located in a shady spot and contain eight or ten inches of water. Crude oil or coal tar dip poured on the water will keep swine free from lice and their skin in good condition.

are available. The sow should not be as compactly built as the boar and may be somewhat finer in conformation and bone. When in fair flesh at maturity, the most typical sows of the large type weigh 350 to 450 pounds. A good breeder and mother cannot be picked with certainty until she has been tried out. Besides having the proper conformation and belonging to a prolific family, the ideal sow should have ten to twelve well-developed nipples. The essential feature of the sow is that she regularly produces large, strong litters of pigs and mothers them well.

SELECTION OF POTATO SEED

One of Most Important Factors for Success in Industry—No Waste of Plant Food.

One of the essential and most important factors for success in the potato industry is the selection of perfect seed stock from the hill, in much the same way as seed corn is selected in the field from the best individual stalks.

There is no other way to get true breed characteristics in potatoes except by selecting seed from the perfect hill, and seed should be saved only from hills producing a first-class marketable potato in the growing of which there is no waste of plant food.

No manufacturer in this day of economy could stand the loss entailed by methods of manufacture under which he was compelled to cull out and throw in the scrap pile 20 per cent of his product as waste, and no one can expect the highest success in potato culture who adopts methods resulting in a loss of 20 to 60 per cent of his crop in culls and unmarketable potatoes. But this is what the potato growers of the United States are many of them, doing today.

Possibilities of Pork.
The possibilities of expanding the production of pork are so great that we shall never see a scarcity of this product.

Waste Is Important Factor.
The element of waste is one of the most important factors in determining profits in hog feeding.

SECURE BEST RESULTS

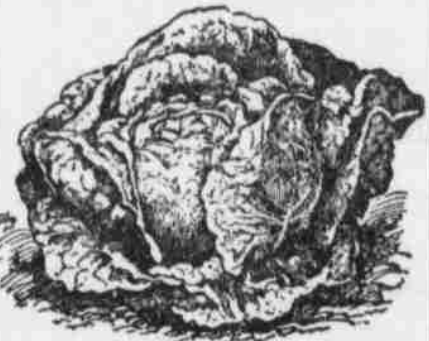
Lettuce Ranks High in Commercial Horticulture.

Size of Seed Has Not Been Given Careful Study Until Recently—"Heading Up" Capabilities Are of Much Importance.

(By M. CUMMINGS.)

Lettuce is a standard vegetable crop, largely grown in farm gardens and ranking high in commercial horticulture as a forcing crop; hence its inclusion in these seed sorting experiments. Although a seed-bed crop, it is often grown in places where space is expensive, where intensive culture prevails, and where crop uniformity and even maturity are of prime importance. On this account growers now carefully consider both seed and varietal choice. In some hothouse districts only certain varieties are deemed suitable for greenhouse culture; and a few progressive growers select only the locally-grown seed now recognized as strains of commercial varieties. Although many methods of seed selection have been adopted, the influence of seed size has not been given careful study until more or less recently.

Since lettuce is seldom sold by weight, a comparison of the value of different-sized seeds on this basis is of little account. Uniformity of maturing and relative "heading-up" capabilities are of more importance. The formation of good, firm heads, making possible the growth of white, crisp, and highly-edible centerleaves,



Head Lettuce of Quality.

is characteristic of a good quality of lettuce. That good "heading-up" characteristics are related to the size of the seed has been found by extensive and careful experiments carried on for several seasons. As to the results of these experiments, several points are worthy of note in summarizing. Marked differences in favor of large seed appear in the seedling stage, a point of little value in itself were it not for the fact that an early advantage influences later growth. Large seeds start the plants off better; and great leaf surface area in early life is of permanent benefit. Moreover, heavier plants, better heads, and greater uniformity at edible maturity are usually secured. In every instance and at almost every stage of growth it could be seen that the plants grown from large seed were much more uniform in stature and in time and manner of heading. Plants grown from small seed were very variable in size and quality—some very good, a few mediocre, and many very poor. Some headed early, but most of them were tardy in forming the heart and in firming the head.

It seems reasonable to conclude that a large sized seeder is a factor in producing head lettuce of good quality and earliness of maturity. In the writer's judgment the lack of plant uniformity commonly observed in commercial lettuce culture is quite apt to be due to the use of seed which is variable in size and consequently, variable in value.

FEEDING ROOTS TO CATTLE

English Stockmen Feed Enormous Quantities of Turnips and Beets—Best Methods of Feeding.

Turnips and beets are grown and fed in enormous quantities by English stockmen and farmers. They do not have silage because of climatic conditions unfavorable to corn. American farmers who use roots to some extent can wisely profit by English experience in feeding them.

An authority advises that they should always be cut or pulped, and never fed whole to cattle. When fed whole there is greater danger of choking, especially with the last piece, and also greater loss or waste by trampling under foot.

The best method of feeding is to cut or pulp the roots and mix them with cut hay, straw or chaff, allowing the pile to heat for a few hours before feeding. This has the merit of warming up the roots, which are generally a cold feed, and of making low-grade roughage more palatable. Cattle fed in this manner through the winter come out in much better condition than if given the same amount of feed uncut and not mixed.

Eggs Develop Mold.

Eggs develop mold if kept in a too damp cellar. The mold penetrates the porous shell and makes the eggs taste stale. They keep better, however, in a cool, moist air that prevents a too rapid evaporation within the shell.

Rejuvenating Rhubarb.

When rhubarb grows rank and spindling it needs rejuvenating. Dig it up, cut the clumps into smaller parts, plant them in deep trenches and fill in well with well-rotted manure mixed with good loam.

PLAN TO GROW CAULIFLOWER

Found to Be Quite Profitable Crop—Early Snowball Variety Is Favored for Market.

(By WILLIAM H. UNDERWOOD.)
I have grown crown cauliflower for a number of years and have found it a very profitable crop, as it brings a good price in the market.

Soil that will produce cabbage is suitable for cauliflower, provided it is enriched with well-rotted manure. The manure should be thoroughly mixed with the soil and the ground put in the best possible condition.

I prefer the Early Snowball, as I have found it to be the best variety for early market. I sow the seed about February 15 or 20 in a hotbed.

When the seeds begin to grow I give the plants sufficient air to keep them from rotting off. As soon as the plants are large enough to handle I take them up and transplant them two inches apart each way, and keep them well watered. I expose the plants to the open air before time to plant out doors so as to harden them. I find that few plants die when treated in this manner.

Several hours before setting out I give the plants a thorough soaking in the hotbed. When ready to set the plants I mark off the ground three feet each way and set the plants somewhat deeper than they grew in the hotbed, and press the earth firmly about them.

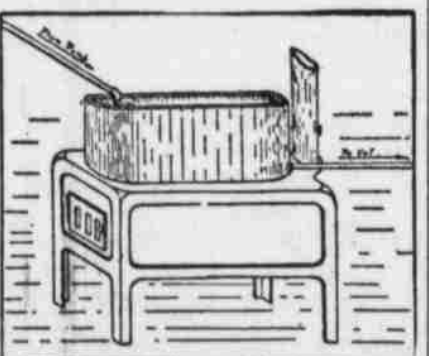
As cauliflower requires a cool atmosphere and a cool, moist soil, there is little chance of success unless it is planted very early in order to come on before the heat of summer. However, it may be planted late and come in during the cool weather of fall.

In cultivating I use a one-horse cultivator twice a week, going both ways when the plants are small. When they come to maturity and the flowers appear, I cover the flowers with a leaf of the plant early every morning. I have had success with this manner of protection.

BIG CONVENIENCE OF DAIRY

Low-Pressure Boiler Is Most Desirable for Heating Water for Cleansing Milk Vessels.

One of the greatest conveniences on the farm where cows are kept is some means for heating an abundance of water for washing the milk vessels. Where a considerable number of cows are kept, heating water by means of steam from a small, low-pressure upright boiler is desirable, but on the small farm a stove with a basin fitted



Water Heater.

into the top (or it may be separate from the top) can be purchased cheaply and will serve the purpose, provided the water is properly heated. Water can be pumped from the well directly into the basin. In order to avoid heating the milkroom and to do away with smoke and ashes, the water heater should be placed immediately outside the milkroom, and if elevated the water from it can be run into the washing vat. Such an arrangement is shown in the illustration.

REMEDY FOR RADISH WORMS

Crispness and Flavor of Vegetable Improved by Use of Soot—Insects Are Kept Away.

A very successful truck gardener recently confessed that he made more money out of radishes than anything else. When asked if he was not greatly troubled with radish worms, he revealed his secret.

After the ground has been fitted up, he makes drill marks of the proper depth for radish seeds, sprinkles a little soot the whole length of them and puts in the seeds and covers them. The crispness and flavor of the radishes seem to be greatly improved by this treatment, while the worms keep at a respectful distance. The soot has such great forcing qualities that, if the weather is not too dry nor too cold, the radishes are ready for market in 15 days from planting, the root being large in proportion to the top. He thus has the advantage of harvesting crop after crop from the same ground in one season. He declares that by using soot he can raise good radishes on ordinary plastering sand, provided it is well drained and warm.

Wood soot is preferable to coal soot, although the latter may be used profitably. He has even used a little coal ashes in lieu of soot, but of course they are not nearly as good.

Poultryman Always Busy.

There is not a day in the year when there is not something that should be done in the poultry yard, but if every day's duties are regularly performed, there will never be a day when its duties overflow into the next.

Danger of Overfeeding.

The danger of overfeeding in the case of young pigs is always inimical to maximum results.

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